Figure 249: Expanded area of the Pivot Table Layout dialog

Identify categories

With this option selected, if the source data has missing entries in a list and does not meet the recommended data structure (as in Figure 250 for example), the pivot table adds it to the listed category above it. If this option is not chosen, then the pivot table inserts *(empty)*.

	A	B	C
1	Produce	Region	Quantity
2	Apples	Italy	6.2 t
3		Lake Constance	19.2 t
4		California	3.6 t
5	Pears	Italy	7.0 t
6		Lake Constance	22.0 t
7			

Figure 250: Example of data with missing entries in Column A

The option **Identify categories** ensures that in this example rows 3 and 4 are included for Apples and that row 6 is included for Pears (Figure 251).

Sum - Quantity	Region			
Produce	California	Italy	Lake Constance	Total Result
Apples	3.6 t	6.2 t	19.2 t	29.0 t
Pears		7.0 t	22.0 t	29.0 t
Total Result	3.6 t	13.2 t	41.2 t	58.0 t

*Figure 251: Pivot table result with **Identify categories** selected*

Without category recognition, the pivot table shows an *(empty)* category (Figure 252).

Sum - Quantity	Region			
Produce	California	Italy	Lake Constance	Total Result
Apples		6.2 t		6.2 t
Pears		7.0 t		7.0 t
(empty)	3.6 t		41.2 t	44.8 t
Total Result	3.6 t	13.2 t	41.2 t	58.0 t

*Figure 252: Pivot table result without **Identify categories** selected*

Logically, the behavior with category recognition is better. A list showing missing entries is also less useful, because you cannot use functions such as sorting or filtering.